

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00053 181617Z

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ACTION H-03

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O R 181430Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1226

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT CAIRO

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 0053

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: OREP

SUBJ: CODEL FANNIN

REF: A. JIDDA 0257 NOTAL B. ABU DHABI 0052

1. REFTTEL B REPORTS HIGHLIGHTS OF VERY SUCCESSFUL CODEL VISIT TO ABU DHABI JAN 17. THIS MSG AND SEPTTEL SUMMARIZE MAIN POINTS OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN CODEL AND UAE MIN PET MANA AL OTAIBA AND UAE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SHAIKH KHALIFA.

2. CODEL CALLED ON OTAIBA AT HIS MINISTRY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY AFTER ARRIVAL IN ABU DHABI. ALSO ATTENDING 40 MIN MEETING WERE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE PET ABDULLAH ISMAIL, KEY OFFICIALS OF UAE MINISTRY OF AFFAIRS, EMB OFFICERS AND PRESS REPS. CODEL INFORMED EMB RECORDS OF THEIR CONVERSATIONS COULD BE CONSIDERED UNCLASSIFIED.

3. AFTER WARM WELCOMING REMARKS, OTAIBA OPENED DISCUSSION BY EXPRESSING DESIRE FOR CLOSER RELATIONS WITH US. HE CHARACTERIZED DIFFICULT PERIOD IN WHICH US-ARAB RELATIONS HAVE RECENTLY PASSED AS QUOTE SUMMER CLOUD THAT WILL PASS FROM SCENE VERY SOON UNQUOTE. OTAIBA MENTIONED FAVORABLE COMMENTS HE HAD HEARD FROM HIS SAUDI COLLEAGUE YAMANI RE RESULTS LATTER'S TRIP TO US. HE TOLD GROUP THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 ABU DH 00053 181617Z

POINTS HE INTENDED TO MAKE WOULD PROBABLY BE EXPRESSED TO THEM IN SIM-

ILAR FORM BY OIL MINISTERS OF OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES.

4. ARAB POSITION WITH RESPECT TO ME SETTLEMENT SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. ARAB WORLD SEEKS PEACE AND EXPECTS USG, AS SUPER POWER AND COUNTRY

WITH VITAL INTERESTS IN ME TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO ACHIEVE EQUITABLE SETTLEMENT. UNTIL RECENTLY, ARABS FELT USG WAS NOT DOING ENOUGH.

B. ARABS DO NOT EXPECT US TO OPENLY SUPPORT THEIR CAUSE, BUT BELIEVE IT ONLY FAIR US POLICY BE EVEN-HANDED. THAT MEANS US SHOULD OPPOSE ISRAELI AGGRESSION, I.E. ACQUISITION OF ARAB TERRITORY, AND SUPPORT BASIC ARAB RIGHTS. SENATORS TOLD BY OTAIBA HE CERTAIN US WOULD NOT KEEP QUIET IF PART OF ITS TERRITORY WERE OCCUPIED. THROUGHOUT DISCUSSION OTAIBA STRESSED THAT ARABS POLICY NOT DIRECTED AGAINST JEWS AS A RACE OR RELIGION.

C. ARABS BELIEVE US SHOULD SUPPORT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND PRESS FOR RETURN TO 1967 BOUNDARIES. JERUSALEM SHOULD BE RETURNED TO ARAB CONTROL IN ORDER TO ASSURE FREEDOM OF ALL RELIGIONS.

D. RIGHTS OF TWO MILLION PALESTINIANS MUST BE RECOGNIZED. OTAIBA REMINDED SENATORS THAT PALESTINIAN REFUGEES LIVING IN CAMPS ARE WITHOUT RESOURCES AND FOR 25 YRS HAVE BEEN DEPENDENT ON INTL CHARITY. THIS SITUATION MUST END.

5. ARABS DECIDED USE OIL AS WEAPON TO EXPRESS THEIR DISPLEASURE OVER EIRECT US SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL DURING RECENT WAR, AND TO JOLT US INTO CHANGING ITS ME POLICY. SOME PEOPLE IN ARAB WORLD, HE SAID, INSIST ON NATIONALIZATION OF AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS, BUT UAE POLICY FIRMLY REJECTS THAT APPROACH. OTAIBA STATED HE IS FIRM BELIEVER THAT BRIDGES FOR FUTURE FRIENDSHIP MUST BE MAINTAINED, BUT US MUST BE MADE REALIZE WHERE ITS POLICY HAS GONE WRONG. ONLY THING ARABS ASK IS THAT US NOT ACT SO ONE-SIDED. IT IS, THEREFORE, DUTY OF SENATORS TO INFORM THEIR COLLEAGUES AND CONSTITUENTS ABOUT ARAB VIEWS AND SITUATION THEY OBSERVED IN AREA. MESSAGE MUST BE GOTTEN ACROSS IN US THAT ARABS ARE OPEN-MINDED AND DESIROUS OF PEACE.

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PAGE 03 ABU DH 00053 181617Z

6. OTAIBA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EFFORTS OF DR. KISSINGER TO AFFECT PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HE FELT ANY PROGRESS LIKE DIS-ENGAGEMENT OF FORCES WILL BE RECIPROCATED BY ARABS WHO, HE STRESSED, NEED SOMETHING TANGIBLE IN HAND RATHER THAN VAGUE PROMISES IN ORDER TO CONVINCE THEIR PUBLIC OPINION THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH US DESIREABLE.

7. SPEAKING ON BEHALF CODEL, SENATOR FANNIN EXPRESSED DESIRE TO EXPAND EXISTING HANDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN

US AND ARAB WORLD, IN GENERAL, AND WITH UAE, IN PARTICULAR. HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE PROBLEM MOST COMPLICATED ONE THAT UNDOUBTEDLY WILL TAKE TIME TO FINALLY RESOLVE, BUT INTERESTS OF US AND ALL THE WORLD REQUIRE EARLY RESOLUTION.

8. SENATOR HANSEN VOICED CODEL'S APPRECIATION FOR OPPORTUNITY VISIT THIS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING PART OF WORLD. TURNING TO QUESTION OF OIL PRICES, SENATOR SAID HE NOT CRITICAL OF RECENT INCREASES AS HE FIRM BELIEVER IN FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM. HE OF OPINION THAT INCREASE IN OIL PRICES WILL HAVE POSITIVE EFFECT OF HASTENING DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY LIKE COAL, OIL SHALE, THERMO POWER, AND NUCLEAR ENERGY. FORTUNATELY, US FAR BETTER ENDOWED WITH ALTERNATIVE SOURCES THAN MOST COUNTRIES. HE FEARFUL, HOWEVER, THAT FOR COUNTRIES NOT SO FORTUNATE AS US, RECENT SHARP RISE IN CRUDE PRICES WILL HAVE EFFECT OF TRIGGERING WORLD-WIDE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION. NOTING THAT US SYMPATHETIC WITH ALL ITS FRIENDS, ARAB AND ISRAELI ALIKE, HANSEN SAID HE CERTAIN THAT MEMBERS OF CODEL WILL UNDERSTAND ARAB SITUATION BETTER AFTER THIS TRIP.

9. COMMENTING ON PRICE QUESTION, OTAIBA EMPHASIZED ARAB OIL STATES HAVE NO INTENTION OF PURSUING POLICIES DISRUPTIVE TO WORLD ECONOMY SINCE THEY ARE PART OF THAT WORLD AND WOULD SUFFER ACCORDINGLY. PRODUCING COUNTRIES ONLY INSISTING ON RIGHT PRICE FOR THEIR OIL. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT IT NOT RIGHT FOR PRODUCERS TO PERIODICALLY DISTURB WORLD ECONOMY BY SHARP AND SUDDEN PRICE INCREASES, OTAIBA SAID

OPEC HAD DECIDED TO FREEZE CRUDE PRICE STRUCTURE UNTIL END OF FIRST

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